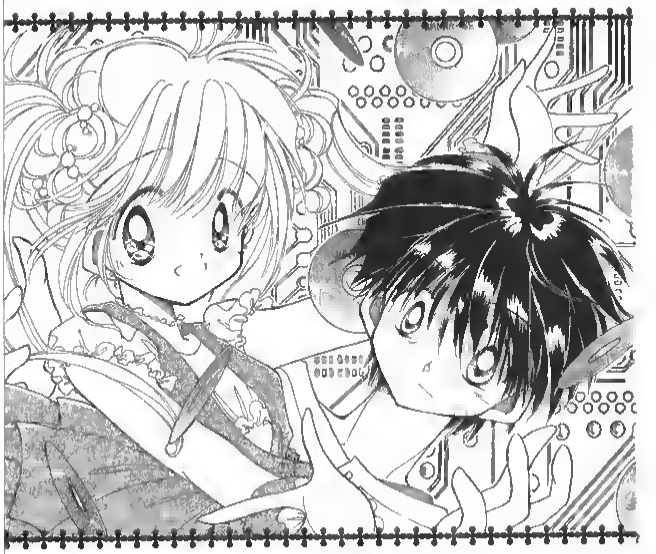
MINK

2

Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP



電脳少女☆Mink 2

サイバーアイドル ミンク

Volume 2

By
Megumi Tachikawa

TOKYOPOP
Los Angeles • Tokyo • London • Hamburg

Translator - Michele Kriegman
English Adaptation - Darcy Lockman
Retouch and Lettering - Fae Kuen
Cover Layout - Harlin Harris
Copy Editor - Troy Lewter
Intern - Mark Stone

Editor - Nora Wong
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C O O - John Parker
Publisher & C E.O - Stuart Levy

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Mink Vol. 2

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Kanoka Moriyama
Mahoko Toriumi
These are Mink's friends.
Motoharu Toriumi
Mahoko's older brother, who also runs his father's talent agency, Bird Music.
Azumi Mizuhara
She's a big celebrity and out to sabotage Cyber Idol Mink.
Iliya
A hot rock star Mink has always idolized. He's also co-starring with Azumi in a TV show.

THE STORY

All Mink could think about was her favorite rock star, Iliya. When his latest CD came out, Mink and her friends had to have it. While they were shopping at the music store, Mink and her friends accidentally bought a different type of CD called WANNA-BE, a software program from the future that allows you to create a virtual character of anyone you ever wanted to be. But when Mink's friends decide to experiment with the new software, they transform Mink into a mega pop star called Cyber Idol Mink! Except there's a catch—using software from the future is a serious crime and everyone involved will be erased! The girls decide never to use it again, but when Motoharu tells them that his father's company will go under unless he finds that mysterious "it" girl—Cyber Idol Mink! Her cyber world is about to crash when Mahoko programs a new function that clones a fake Mink so one of them can go to school while the other pursues Motoharu and her dreams of stardom.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

電脳少女★Mink

▶▶▶ Cyber Idol Mink travels the world ★ ▶▶▶▶▶

Introduction

OM The wanna-be software guide

Wanna-be software creates a virtual character and allows you to become whomever you wanna be!

電脳少女★Mink
(サイバーアイドル ミンク)

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CYBER IDOL ★

Frosty kisses.
Mwaaah!
Enter to win Valentine chocolates from our ♡ silver fox, Cyber Idol Mink!
It comes with a card! ♡
POW
Mink
No, that's Cyber Idol Mink's chocolate, not mine!
?
Aren't you going to give him that chocolate?
That kind in the commercial
Wow, she is so not me!

Well, I'm doing this cause...
...it's almost Valentine's Day!!
I'm leaving early so I can give 'im to Motoharu in time!
The tastiest ever, sweetened with real snowflake powder
Cyber Idol Mink's chocolates
Mink, why in the world are you making chocolates?
Why? Why??

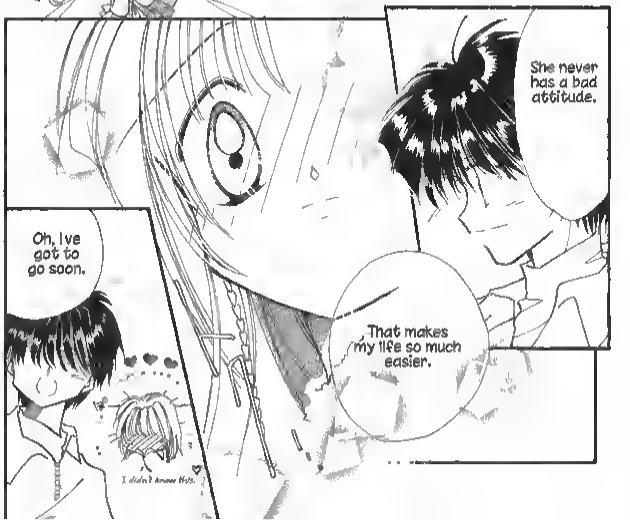
Excuse me, Senpai?
Not very convincing coming from a high school student, Mo.
Stop calling me "Mo!" This is no place for children. This is a place of business, for Pete's sake!
You're right!
But aren't things going well?
I heard those chocolates are flying off the shelves.
Actually, it was Azumi Mizuhara who was supposed to do that commercial.
Wear a fox outfit on TV?! Over my dead glamorous body! Never!
AZUMI'S IMAGINATION
Wait a minute...
Eh...
So they came to you?
Huh?

Ah, um, Senpai, th-this...
Come on, Mink!
As I already explained, this is not the place to call...
RRRR
...to order those chocolates!
I'm going to make him my own candy.
BIRD MUSIC
Heelloooo!!
Valentines Day
Uh, Senpai ...
It's been non-stop phone calls since this morning.
Ma, you are so slow!
Hey Mahoko, when did you get here?!
Oh, if you want them, keep them.
These are those Cyber Idol Mink chocolates.
Here...
Chocolates?
So Many...

Huh?
All right, I'm promoting you to the head of the satellite broadcast division.
Oh yeah, Mahoko.
We've got the M2 squared recording!
See you later.
So clean up the room and lock the doors before you go.

Yep.
Yeah! Yeah!
Liven up, now it's time for transforming, transforming!!
Work! Work
That means Mink has to go too.
I didn't give him the chocolates
I didn't give them
Oh no!!
She's in her own world.
"WANNA-BE" STAND BY
WANNA BE STAND BY

Cyber Idol Mink is always so enthusiastic, she answers twice.
A variety show.
A fox?! Yes. Yes.
I LOVE THEM.
And whadda ya think will happen if you make such a big drama out of it?
What do you think will happen if our secret gets out? Remember, loose lips sink ships!!
ALWAYS ARGUING


She never has a bad attitude.
That makes my life so much easier.
Oh, I've got to go soon.
I didn't know that.

SIGH
POOF!
See you guys later!
Good luck!

MONDAY NIGHTS, 9:00.
No Matter What We Do, We Always Wind Up Hurting Each Other...
Star-Crossed Lovers
That's the poster for Iliya's new drama series.

Hot Hot Hot Hot
Hot Hot Hot Hot
Hot Hot Hot Hot
Hot Hot Hot Hot
Hot Hot Hot Hot
Hot Hot Hot Hot
Oh...
...I was wondering who that freak was looking at that poster.
ほほほほ
きらきら

SET UP
TRANSFORM!!
WANNA

The nerve of her!
I wanted to do that commercial.
Oh no. Right in front of Azumi?
It's like she's trying to steal my job!
Why is she always hanging around me?
I almost forgot! Now's a good time to give Senpai those chocolates.
Senpai!
Bye! I'll see you back at the studio.
We're about ready to start, Iliya, Azumi.

Iliya, today's taping includes the promo for the drama.
Hello, Iliya! Hello Azumi!
Yes, but...
What?!
...I'm really here as your producer.
WHISPER
What are they whispering about?
It's like seeing a whole new side of you!!
Cyber Idol Mink, you did a great job selling those chocolates!
Really?!
Well
Producer Nishi!
Yo. What are you guys meeting about?

It's over...
What ?!
...he's going to find out the truth.
Um, it's because...
?
That...

If that's what you want, then it's cool with me.

I call you Senpai out of respect!
That's why I call you Senpai, Get it?
THE WAY IT IS.

Oh, he's just fine...
...more importantly how would you like some chocolates from the new commercial?
Hey, you're doing well. How's your dad?

Senpai!!
This time I'll do it.
Yes, sir.
Catch you later
Hurry up and finish talking.

There's something I've been wanting to ask you.
Why do you sometimes call me Senpai? Like we're schoolmates?
Well...
Um...Uh, this...

Azumi is so pretty.
What are you holding? You're about to go onstage.
Nothing.

Wait!
That kind of thing will just get in the way!
Give that to someone like the manager.

Uh, yeah...
Ready, Mink?
?
I meant to give it to him.
No! You can't... you can't do that!

Whoo-hoo!
Go, Azumi!!!

But wait, I have something...
Okay, later. I'm going to change for the taping.
.....
Why? Why? Why?
I didn't give it to him.

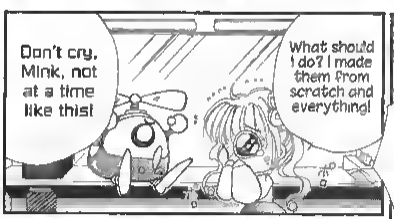
He's so cool!
They make such a cute couple.
They really do.
Miya is my co-star. How could they say that about those two?!
What the hell does that mean?! She looks good with him?!
Argh!
!!
I'm sure those are Cyber Idol Mink's...
What are they?
Today we have a special performance with Iliya producing...
..."Millions of Moons."
"Millions of moons in your eyes"...
The acoustic version...
...bring in a pulse.
Melody...
20

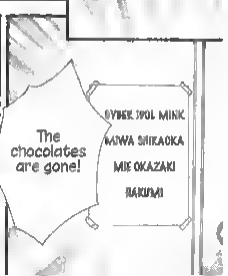
Anyway, so much for these chocolates.
That's what you get for stealing all the attention away from me.
Tssk!
Good Job, Mink!
You rock, Cyber Idol Mink!
Thank you all very much!

!!
Valentine chocolates?! Probably for Iliya?!
TO SENPAI
Senpai is...?
Of course! She calls her manager "Senpai." I remember now.
That kid...
So that's what's going on, I just discovered a big secret...
...her own manager?!
AZUMI MENTAL SCENE
Um. Senpai?

Hurry up-
function!
COME ON
NETWORK
BEEP
Search
now!!
Find the
Chocolates!!
EARC

!!
...something like...?
Oh,
Senpai!
I have...
Here's
my
chance!
Where'd the
chocolate go?
I could've
sworn
I put them
right here.

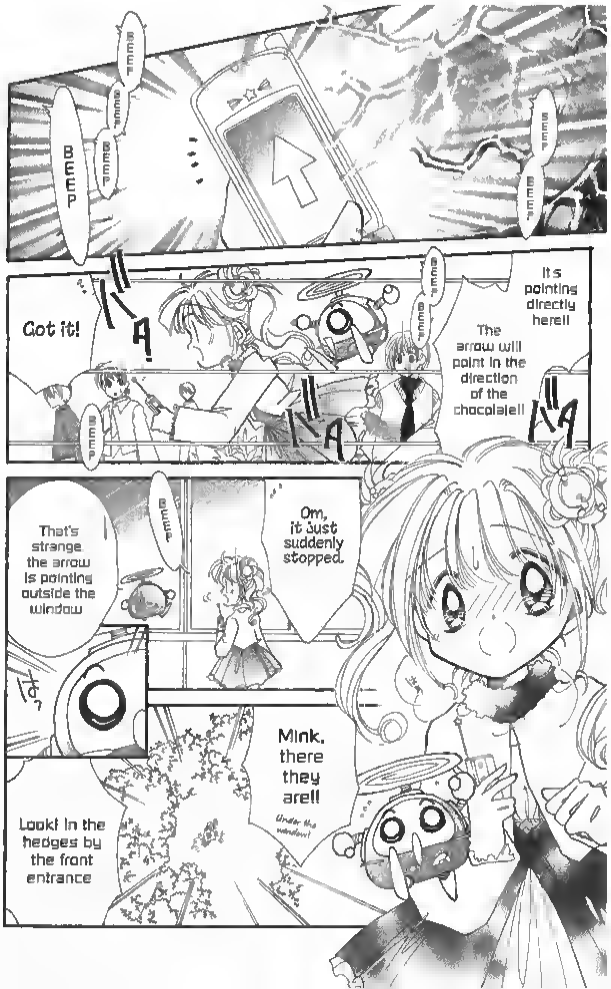

Don't cry,
Mink, not
at a time
like this!
What should
I do? I made
them from
scratch and
everything!


The
chocolates
are gone!
CYBER IDOL MINK
NAWA SHIKAOKA
MIE OKAZAKI
NAKUMI

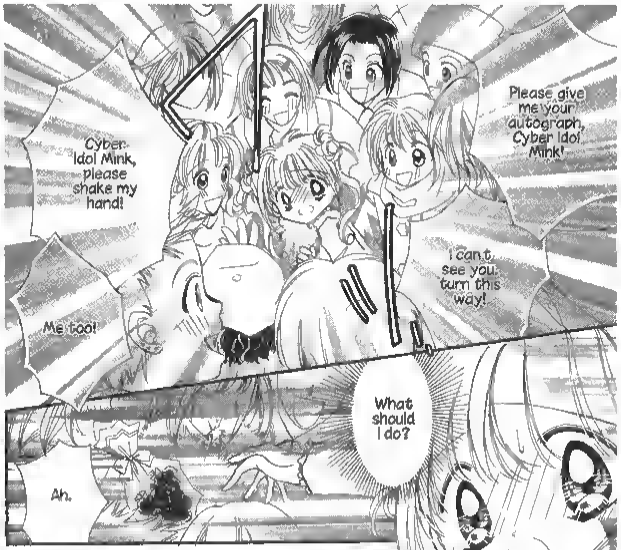
Mink Rap!!

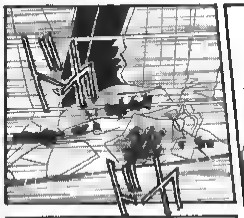
Hello! This is Megumi Tachikawa. This is my second installation of Cyber Idol Mink. This time I'm not going to use the extra space to answer questions. Instead, I'd rather talk about TV dramas that I like. I'm often asked about my favorite TV shows. Actually, I really like dramas. I check out every new one that comes on, and if I like it, I watch the next episodes too. I've even gotten arrogant and tried creating Megumi Tachikawa's top TV dramas. I apologize to anyone who isn't interested in this. I hope you at least enjoy the main part of the book. Please wait a little longer for character profiles.

Anyway, let's go back to Mink's cyber space--It's really heating up!!



Mink!!
Senpai!!
Hurry!
Hop on!!

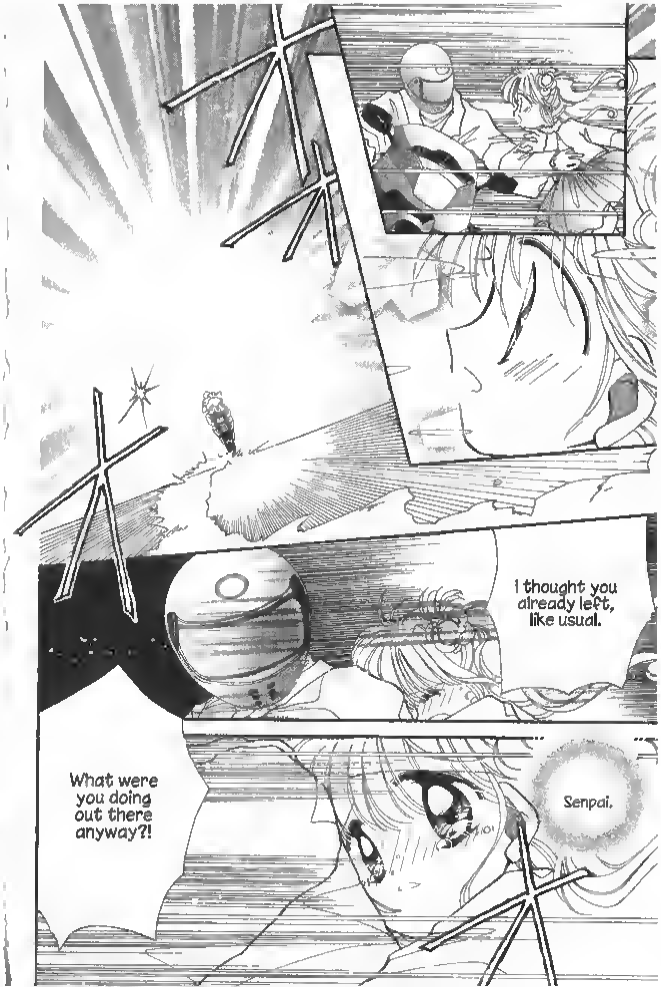

Please give me your autograph, Cyber Idol Mink!
Cyber Idol Mink, please shake my hand!
I can't see you, turn this way!
Me too!
What should I do?
Ah.



My chocolate!
Mink
Over here!

Please don't step on it.

Jeez...
The chocolates...
...they're all messed up now.
Didn't you know you'll get mobbed if you go out alone to the front entrance?!


I thought you already left, like usual.
What were you doing out there anyway?!
Senpai.

There's only one left.
It's kinda yucky.
I made them...
...just for you.

These are...
This wasn't what I planned on giving you.
...ruined. They were supposed to be nicely wrapped Mink chocolates.
The chocolates from the commercial?
What's this?
Well ...
I made these f-for you, but...
...they got...

Y-y...
...yes!
I made this...
...just for you.
Happy Valentine!

There's only one feeling like this in the whole wide world.
For me?
Thanks.
Can I eat it now?

電脳少女☆Mink
Chapter 7
A Ring of Angels

What do you think of that, Azumi?!
It's Teikoku TV's new campaign!
SPRING IS TEIKOKU TV
TEIKOKU
TELEVISION

No way! You're a Mink fan too?
I've got to pre-order it!
Hey, is this Cyber Idol Mink's new song?
Her long-awaited second single is available now!
Mink SECOND SINGLE
「Velvet Angel」
3.3.ON SALE
produced by Illiy

This article! Don't you worry, my little angel!
Afraid to show her!
He's putting it back together
What?
This is the exact day as my new concert!
What's this with Cyber Idol Mink performing at Budokan?
And what's all this "going head to head" crap?
This isn't funny, you can't even see me!
This...
...really...
s-s...
...sucks!!
Oh, I finally put it back together

The commercials will start running soon too.
You are the youngest poster girl ever!
I bet this year you'll get the platinum award...
...and I won't even need to pull any strings!
Singing, acting, commercials, my daughter sure is amazing!
STOP!!
Mink
CYBER IDOL MINK HEADLINING AT BUDOKAN CONCERT STAGE
RELEASE OF NEW SINGLE "VELVET ANGEL"
GOING HEAD 2 HEAD WITH AZUMI MIZUHARA!
SONG RELEASE AND CONCERT TO BE HELD SAME DAY!
What's the matter? Aren't you happy, my little kitten?

Me?!
Yep...
...and we're also going to design the entire set with angels for our Cyber Idol Mink!
We may even have you come flying through the sky.
An angel! An angel! An angel!
That's so cool, since the new song is called "Velvet Angel."
Illiya is going to produce it again.
Oh, by the way...
When did you three get to be such good friends?
We're all the same age. So we're the best of friends!
♡♡
...missing one of you.
The usual trio is...
!

There, there, leave everything to Papa...
Try and do something about this okay, Papa?
♡
I'm begging you.
...my Teikoku TV network is number one, you know!
I never take a back seat to anyone!
There's nothing I can't do!

Bu...
BIRD MUSIC
...Budokan concert hall?!
The spotlight belongs to me!!
LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER

I'll do it for all the fans who came out to support me...
I will!
...and...
Let's change the order of the third song.
Okay
...for Senpai.
DON'T FORGET!
A LITTLE HEAVEN ON EARTH.

Oh yeah, we heard the news!! The Budokan concert tickets are special!
Oh!
Where's Mink?
KONK
Yeah, they're special, all right. You'll find out why...
...soon.
It's such a big event that if it succeeds, it'll put us in the running for an award.
It'll be okay because...
...I'll be with you.
You can do it!

We came to visit you!
♬
Hey Mink! You working hard?
Watch out! Don't get too carried away and give away her identity!
Don't spoil it by worrying about every little thing.
Mink's friends?
Yeah.
Oh, it's Illiya!
There's nothing wrong with this!
Wanna fight?
Hello!
You fool! You think I'm gonna fall for that?

Hi.
Aw, thank you, Om.
Shouldn't you rest a little Mink?
Senpai ...
That's a problem.
I'll find out soon.
AAAAGH!
EEEEK!
That wasn't just an ordinary smile
He noticed me.

Okay, that's all for today!!
Wait a minute. I've got to transform back to myself.
Let's go home together!
And stop for ice cream.
Oh, Cyber Idol Mink, We caught you in time!!
?!
That's a problem.
Something must have happened.
?

What kind of reaction was that?
That's weird.
I'm looking forward to working with you as your producer today.
Up!
I can't believe a girl ran away from me.
That's a first.
Iliya?
?
It looked like he was in a hurry to go somewhere.
Jeez, he can never stay still! No wonder he rarely goes to school.
We can stay here and watch today? Where's your brother?
Ten seconds later, Mukoko came back and asked for his autograph like nothing happened.

!
Hey, you two!
...What we all really want to know is...
Sorry I'm late.
...why did Cyber Idol Mink's Budokan concert get cancelled?!
What?
We know all about it. There was some pressure put on them, right? Some suit at the top pulled a few strings at the TV station.
I heard that if Budoukan doesn't cancel Cyber Idol Mink's concert, our network will cancel all events and bookings with them.

How 'bout a quick interview? You know that your concert is the same day as Azumi Mizuhara's, right?
H-hello!
Wha...
Are you confident you're going to win the competition?!
...they'll figure out our secret.
If they see us with Cyber Idol Mink...
Do the two of you hate each other that much?!
Cut this out now!
Why are you all crowding around for?!
Senpai!

Mink Rap!!

First, here are my top five dramas.

1 After School
2 Leave It Up To Ryoma!
3 The Woman Who Kicks Butt
4 What The—!
5 GTO

Also Jamuni Narita Divorce

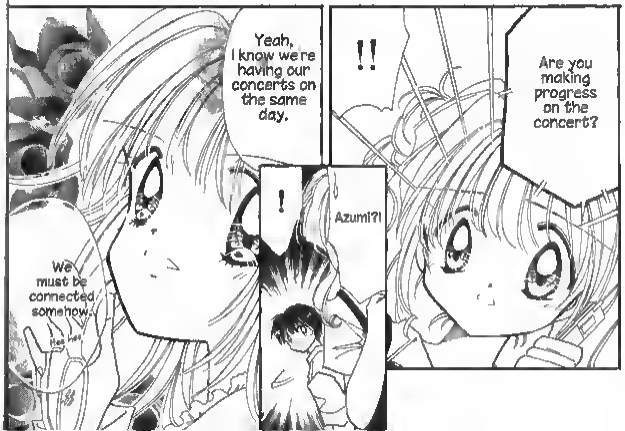
"After School" is my favorite even now. The male and female leads switch roles. The one using boys' language is Arisa Mitsuki, and she's so cute. The one using girls' language is Issei Ishida, and he's so funny. But first place goes to the wise-guy character, Shinji Tokeda. I love him. I thought "Ryoma," with Takeshi Sanmachi, Gurochiki Kitahara and Maechiko Nishimura was fun. The first two were also great when they appeared together in "Virgin Road." I've switched from liking Emi Nakui in "The Woman Who Kicks Butt" to being a fan of her partner, Mitsuru Fukikoshi. As for "What The—!"

Continued on page 88

You mean Cyber Idol Mink doesn't even know?!
Actually, March 3rd at Budokan is...
Stop it!! Don't you dare say it!
Senpai, what's going on?
Azumi Mizuhara's performing instead.
In other words, the Budokan hall has been taken by Azumi Mizuhara!
Get it?
We can't do the concert?!
Whaaat?
!!

...won't give up!
I...
!!
Yes.
...my dancing.
...my songs...
So I'll practice...
Right now...
...that's what...
...I can do!
You can't get a location?
This is the 30th try.
This really sucks. Even the really small venues are not available. Does he really have that much pull?
Oh, I see. I understand. Goodbye.
I'll watch things while I'm gone, I'm going to show up at these places in person.
Okay, leave things to us.
I'll look some more on the internet.
Wait Senpai, I'm coming too!
Mink, you probably have better things to do.

Senpai?
His jacket?
M-m-maybe he...
...saw me while I was sleeping!
Yes, of course.
Oh
RRRRRR
?
She wants to speak to you; she said she's a friend.


Yeah, I know we're having our concerts on the same day.
!!
Are you making progress on the concert?
!
Azumi?!
We must be connected somehow...
Hee hee

Actually..
...if it weren't such...
...a small office...
RING RING!
RRRRRR

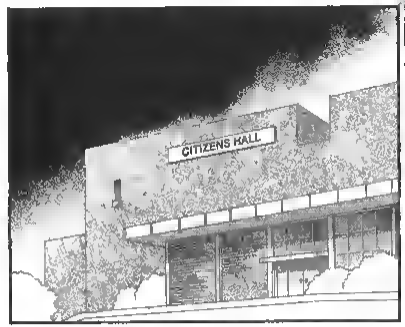
I am not going to lose to someone like that!
I don't care how big someone thinks they are, they can't go around hurting people like this!
Wha...
What was that?
Who do you think you're talking to?
I, for one, am not giving up.
I'll show you!!
Who do you think you are?
Wench!
.....

Well? Do you want to compete with me?
After all, that's what the media is calling it.
Let's see who will ranked higher after the concerts. Your song or mine?
I promise to play fair, okay?
What do you mean "play fair"?
After what you pulled? You-!!
Give me the phone, Senpai!
Of course...
...that's if you are able to have your concert!
Bwahaha!
That's it, bring it on!

...we can't do the whole angel thing there.
We finally did get a venue. It's one-tenth the size of Budokan, but that's the best I could do.
It's a small place, so...
But I can sing there, right?
We're really going to have a concert?
I'm sorry.
I will give it my all!
Thank you!
I can't lose.
For Om!
For Mahoko! For Kanoka!
And for Senpai!
I am sooo happy!
Sorry, Mink...
!!
I guess the concert really is cancelled.

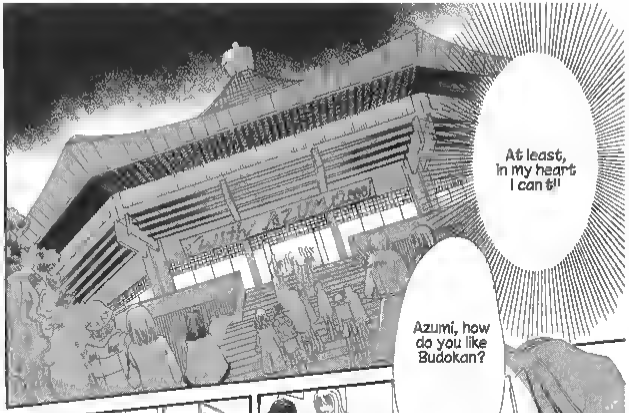
Yep, but because the hall is so small, they had a lottery to get in and I didn't make it...
...so I just ..
It's tonight, isn't it? You didn't get your money back?

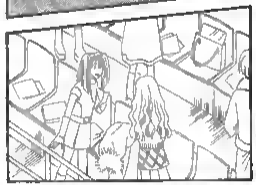
Hey, me too.
...
Ditto.
I heard some big-shot stole Budokan from right underneath her nose.
I didn't want to return the ticket, so I kept it.


CITIZENS HALL

Hey, you...
...isn't that a ticket for Cyber Idol Mink's concert at Citizens Hall?
Hmm?

Come on...
...let's go to Citizens Hall anyway.


At least, in my heart I can't!!



Azumi, how do you like Budokan?

...and in this world, the end result means everything.
It's like the competitions are sky over...
Poor, poor Mink!

It's just as grand as I thought.
It's the best Papa.
...but who actually wins.
It doesn't matter how you play the game...

It doesn't matter if it's such a small stage.
If people come to see me no matter how small, I'll be there.
HAPPY!
...that's good enough for me.
Wherever it is, if I can hear the applause...
For this next part, Mink was supposed to fly in the sky like an angel!
Damn!
RRR
Shutdup
Hey, she's jammin'!

Come on!!

Mink
What's...
What's going on?
Mink
The tickets the fans are holding! They're glowing!
The tickets have phosphorescent ink on them! They glow in the dark!
Mink! You rule!
Don't lose out to some stuck-up brat!!
We're here for you!

Something amazing is happening outside this place
Look! I'll send you a clip of what I'm seeing.
Om?
What's up?
Mink, can you hear me?
CHANGING COSTUMES
Huh?

It's like...
Come on Network!!
Heaven...
CD-ROM
650MB
VERSION 2.0
COMPACT DISC

You're right!
!!
Tonum, come here!!
...The fans who couldn't get into the show are crowding outside.
WAAAAH
AHHH
But instead of complaining and demanding their money back like they normally would...
...they're holding onto their tickets as souvenirs.
Okay, come on...
I can't believe there are this many people...
Check out the sea of glowing tickets!
This is it! Next is the new song!!
Okay!

She's flying!
What!
Float!!
?!

Remember "A Little Heaven on Earth."
Velvet Angel
"Because the Velvet Angel... ...is looking at you."
What's happening?
Look!
Transmission
Don't forget.
Is that a hologram? Awesome!

STRANGE PHENOMENON
AT CITIZEN'S HALL LIVE CONCERT
RING OF LIGHT RISES FROM
10,000 GATHERED OUTSIDE HALL
Mink
FOR THE BEST
CD CHARTS
DOMESTIC LABELS
THIS WEEK
LAST WEEK
1 — Velvet Angel
2 — With
3 1 Riddle
4 5
Mink
Azumi
RED
Mink
Azumi Mizu
It's not going to...
...end like this!
I am the top idol.
It should be me!!

「Angel Ring」
On this day, March 3 2000
"Because I'll be watching you."
A ring of light, encircled a small concert hall.
Everyone started calling it that.

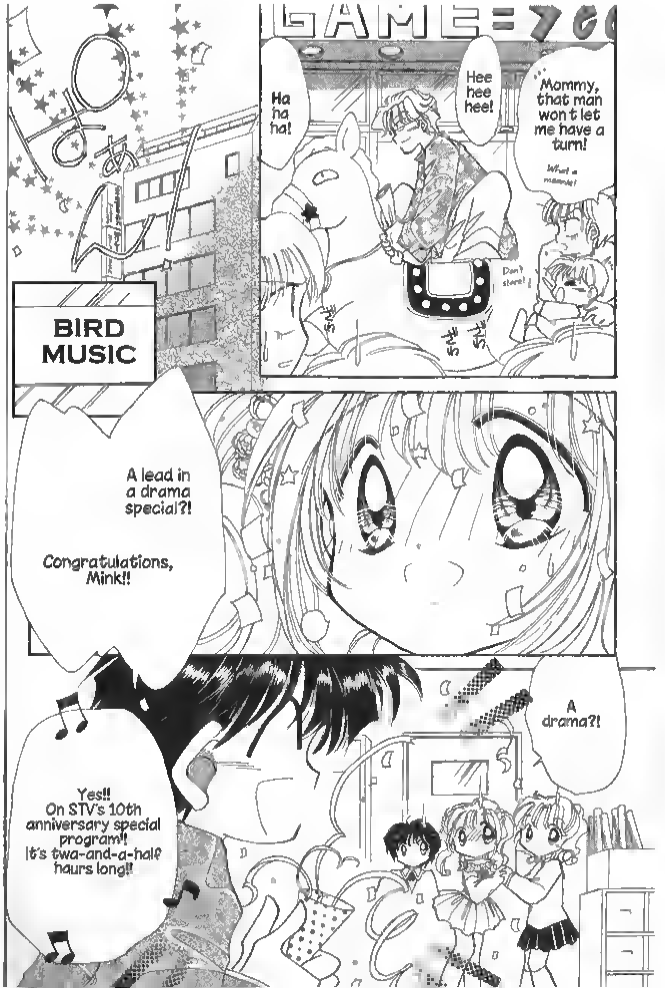
PASHA!
BEST OF FRIENDS
Come on! Let's take one with this background.
No, I don't have time for this
I have to get to the office early today!
COLOR PRINTS
UFO
GAME

Chapter 8

Won't You Be A Heroine?! (Part 1)

Set up!!!
WANNA-B
DISC

Why are you in such a rush?
There's still time.
I don't really know, but Senpai said to dress up.
Maybe there's a party going on.
Maybe...
...it's a...
...date!
Oh my, what shall I do?
I'm so excited!
What's up?
"WANNA-BE" STAND-BY!!
What? In here?
Then get back in there to transform!
No one can see you from outside.
Wa-wait a second!


GAME=7
Ha ha ha!
Hee hee hee!
"Mommy, that man won't let me have a turn!
What a maniac!
Don't stare!
BIRD MUSIC
A lead in a drama special?!
Congratulations, Mink!!
A drama?!
Yes!! On STV's 10th anniversary special program!! It's two-and-a-half hours long!!

PASHA!
Say cheese!
Yay!
Now you have some before-and-after Wanna-Be photos.
Mink SPECIAL
...there's no escaping
Once the amazing moi gets a peek at you...
I'll make a scandal out of this one.
Heh heh. Mink, eh? Stories on her are selling like hotcakes right now.

Instead of Hollywood, you should go to home economics school!!
Okay, let's go, Mink!!
I mixed it with some left-over rice.
Where are we going, Senpai?
When we get there, you'll know.
TAKAWANA
You have a date! with 200 cameras!!
GULP!!
What Mo?
Wow! Thank you, Senpai.
I'm so stoked! I feel like having some red bean rice to celebrate!
Yummy!
RIGHT ON!
With this gig you'll officially be an actress, and I couldn't be happier!
I'm going to show them that you're the ido! for the entire world!
Yippee!
Eat your heart out, Academy Awards! Watch out, Grammys and here we come, Hollywood!
M i n k !
YES!!
What did you put in the red bean rice?
Nothing, it's just plain.
?
It's a little too much, isn't it?
Is your brother usually this competitive?

DRAMA "EDEN"
KICK
Oh!!
The main character, Emily, will be played by A-list superstar Mink!!
It's like a proud mother.
Mink is really terrific!
And the roles of the parents will be played by...
Wait a minute!
?!

STV'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL DRAMA KICK-OFF PRESS CONFERENCE FOR "EDEN"
What?!
A press conference?
Preshow too!
We're all to excited about the new drama "Eden," based on the best-selling book.
It's about a young girl who loses both of her parents.
We hear it's also a love story about a handsome therapist who uses dolphins to open up her heart again.
This is going to be a big-budget production in Okinawa, with tropical skies and seashore.

Mink Rap!!

I am such a big Atsurou Watabe fan. Ever since seeing Suyoshi Kusanagi in "Nanto Divorce," I thought he was great. I also love Takahiro Murata. I have a soft spot for that type.

Continuing right along, the next five are the dramas I thought were most suspenseful.
1 Endurance
2 Gift
3 The Sleeping Forest
4 Long vacation
5 Team
Special mention
World of Ice

Anyway, I like "Endurance!" It was scary, but Watabe and Miki Nakatani were fun. I also like Nakatani's songs. "Team" made me think and it was fun! More than anything, Kusanagi gave the role his all, so it was terrific. Yeah, I really liked it. But, when I look at these rankings...

Continued on page 109

THAT'S A STRANGE PLACE FOR HIM TO APPEAR.
Excuse me, what is it you want?
What's that jerk doing?
How you doin'?
If this is a romantic drama, that means the person playing Mink's love interest is here somewhere, right? ♡
I don't know about that kind of thing!!
Not yet at least
I'd like to hear a few more details about that. ♡

Ohmigawd.
...that guy from the other day!
He's been hiding underwater until now
Is her royal highness Mink feeling lovely today?
♡ Heh heh heh
It's him!
Who the hell is that?
That's "Celebrity Killer" Johnny.
Look what he did to Hamu-Taku! It destroyed him!
Hamu-Taku?
Johnny Hotta! The famous gossip columnist!
That jerk always cuts down the celebrities he writes about!
Oh, from the band S.M.O.P.
I actually know him!
What's that stand for?
That's short for Takuya Hamura.

おお
Huh!
From this point on I'll need to protect you from sharks like that!
Over there
Shark
Since I am playing your boyfriend...
Oh, I'm getting you wet
Aaahh!
Thrills
Melting
Illiya?
Sorry I'm late! I was at a recording.
Your co-star is playing the part of "Naoto."
That's right, director, do you have a co-star?
Wee-hee!
Huh?
Don't shorten my name!
It's Johni-Ta.
!!
I think I know that guy.

Hey!
Are you okay?!
Okay!
...
I hope I do well
Huh?
In a scene like this, you need to get a little closer!!
!!
CUT!
Ah!

Heh heh heh!
Mink and Illya...
I'll turn this into a scandal, even if I have to make it up.
And then..
Before they know it, filming begins.
Okay, Scene 20. Emily falls down!
Roll!
Illya is going to play my boyfriend.
BOYFRIEND
It looks like he didn't know.
Mo, did you know this?
What the--what is?
Weird grunt noises!

Excuse me...
Um, Mr. Toriumi, there's been a change to the script.
Because you're the manager?
Why do I have to keep doing this?!
Please put it over there!
GET OUT!!
That's enough!
Johnny-san
LOUNGE
EDEN
He's sooo persistent.
He's up to something.

Hmmph!
That's because I'm her manager!
Don't get in the way.
Fancy footwork there...
...especially with that killer kick!
Twenty-minute break!!
Here, you can steal an indirect kiss off this can.
Just pucker up.
Aaagh! My Juice!!!
Oooh.
Here Mink, have some juice.
Thanks, Senpai.

What kind of logic is that?
Since we're acting, we can do whatever we want...
...it's our job.
Mink, do something!!!
Mumuh!
Oh, no!
Not again!
Mating!
Mink
I'm glad I got this part...
...Iliya really is wonderful.
Especially when he gazes into my eyes during close-ups.
カシャー
カシャー

Mink, I think you need someone like me here.
You'll be fine with me around.
From now on...
...don't go too far from your Naoto, okay, Emily?
Iliya actively starts to become the character he plays.
Iliya's over-identifying with his character again.
I'm just being "Naoto" and she's just being "Emily."
It won't start rumors.
You're making it look like the two of you have something goin on!
Careful! You gotta watch yourself, otherwise that gossip guy will take a photo of you two.

They're going to burn the set, so just to be on the safe side, yes. Then later, they'll splice in close-ups of you.
I have a stunt-woman?
The nerve!
"You're goofing off..."
I am not going to use a stunt-woman!!
This isn't a game to me!!
Let me do the scene myself, director!!
Hmm?
Why is he getting so angry?
Senpai is an idiot, idiot, idiot!
Okay, today we'll be shooting in the mountains. This is the scene where Emily's parents die in the fire.
Get Emily's stunt-woman for me now!
Yes, sir.

!
Please be careful when Johni-Tas hanging around!
You're not going to be able to act if you're goofing around half the time like this is a game!
What?! Aren't you the one who wanted me to be an actress?
Whatever! I don't know why I bother worrying about you!
Then do what you want! Create a scandal or whatever! See if I care!!
I wasn't goofing around!!
Really? You're behaving like one of his crazy fans!
He does something cool and you go into a daze.
I can't help it. I've always been a fan of his!!

"Dad!! Mom!!"
Director, don't you think the flames are getting a little too high?!
What?!

I guess you have permission from the office, right?
Listen to you, mink!
Spoken like a real trooper!
What?
Of course I do!!
Ok.!
I'll show them what I can really do!!
Okay, scene 29. Let's go.
Flames!

Mink!!
It hurts. I can't breathe.
Where is the exit?!
Please!!
Help me!!

Where did the cameraman go...?
Director!!
I'm sorry, I lost her in the smoke...
Where's Mink?!
Mink is doing this scene?!
Didn't she come back here?!
...she said she had gotten permission from the office too.
She wanted to do the scene herself...
Weren't you supposed to use a stunt-woman?
!!

Senpai!
Watch it!!
Behind you
No!!
Senpai is going to die!
The fire...
...is getting worse!

"NETWORK"
Mink!!

I said I was sorry. Didn't I apologize?
I could walk by myself.
Let me go, you brute!!
You're calling the person who just saved your life a brute?!!
Why did you get so angry at me?!
あっ?
Because ...

If I knew this was part of my job, I wouldn't have become a talent manager!!
Director! I see someone...
Thank God, they're fine!!
おおお?

It'll be fun, that love scene...
I gave it to you earlier.
The script?
I'm sure I got your okay on it.
...between Mink and Illiya.
♡
KISS
Smooch!
A love scene?!
Here we go!
Heh heh heh...
Here's my chance.

Uh huh
A CELEBRITY'S FACE IS HIS LIFE.
...I didn't want to burn my face.
I was gonna save her, but...
...you scared me!!
..this would have been a huge story.
Darn, if that was Illiya and not her manager..
Huh?
It was really worth changing the script.
Keep up the good work!
Thanks to you, we got a real powerful scene.
Sorry about that, Mink.

Chapter 9

Won't You Be A Heroine?! (Part 2)

Mink Rap!!

Are they going to start rumors about me liking Takuya Kimura?! "Gift" was great! It was really fun, and the story was not the type I get tired of. "Kimu-taku" was the lead, supported by Shigeru Mura, Satomi Kobayashi and Mitsuko Baishou. There were also appearances by RC's Kiyoshirou Imawano, Ryoko Shinohara. I was thrilled! I also became a fan of Masayuki Imai back then. With "The Sleeping Forest," I became a fan of Manami Honjou and Yuusuke Santa Maria. They looked like they were having fun in "The Sleeping Forest" and "World of Ico." I think "World of Ico" was the most true-to-life of them all.

And now, finally (what do you mean "finally?") Megumi Tachikawa's Top Five tear-jerkers.

1. Natsuko's Sake
2. Virgin Road
3. The 101st Proposal
4. Gold Coins In The Stars
5. Mrs. Cinderella

Notable mentions:
"My Life" and
"The Arranged Marriage"
"Under One Roof, 2"
"The Witch's Precise"
"Mr. Kinkoro, Third Year, Unit B"

Continued on page 122

CUT!!

I haven't even had my first kiss yet!

"That'll be fun, that love scene."
"Mink and Illiya."
Wh-what?!
Me? You're kidding, right?

Johnny Ta
You wish you were going to heaven!!
This is tropical paradise, love heaven comin' at ya.
The cockroaches in Okinawa are huge!
He followed us all the way here!
I don't like cockroaches.
This is no good. Let's wrap for the day.
This "Celebrity-Killer Johnny" will follow you to the ends of the earth until I get my story!
Heh heh heh.

...and I've never even been on a date!
This is supposed to be a kiss...
TOTALLY INEXPERIENCED
This should solve things.
Huh? That was bad?
We've got a problem, Mink, you've got to show more emotion in this scene.
Remember, it's just you and Naoto, the guy you're totally in love with. Think of someone you like!
And the dolphin scene went so well.
I just can't concentrate on this!
This is terrible, I'm thinking about the love scene so much...
Even if you tell me that...

Time for bed...
What am I thinking!
!
A flower for a pretty girl.
Wait, this isn't fun.
...And you looked again...
To Mink...
...who looks a little blue.
Yeah!
This is a perfect day for filming!!

Okay.
Please find a way to get this right by tomorrow, Mink.
If you can't do it, we can't continue.
I'm sorry.
Mink.
Someone I like...?
HOTEL

That's right! I can't let myself get bummed out!
Okay, let's go for it!
Mink, let's...
What's that?
Really? Good luck?
Gee, thank you so much!
I'd like to hear more about that.
Who is Iliya going to be happy with? Mink?!
Get outta here!!
So that's it! Happiness.
I WONDER IF IT'LL BRING ME HAPPINESS TOO.
...is a complimentary gift from the hotel.
This...
Really?
I'm a big fan of yours! I always watch you on TV.
Ohh, it's so pretty!
If you wear this red flower, it'll bring you good luck!
?
It will bring happiness too!
Don't forget!

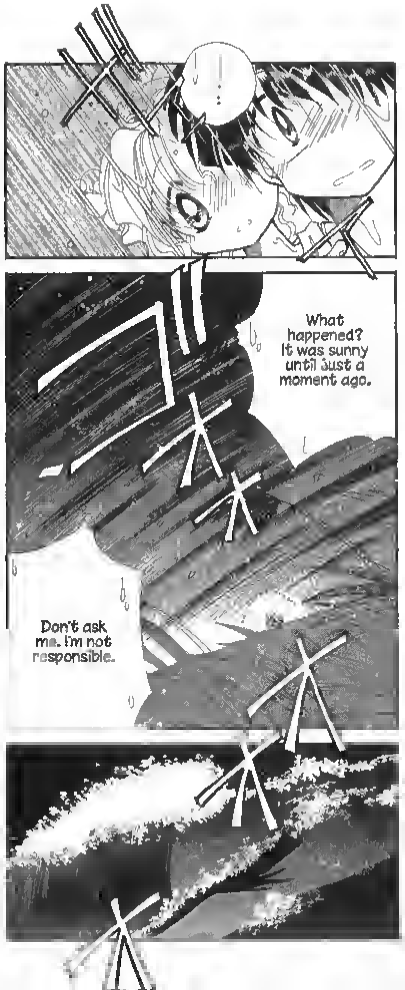
Is he following us?
Yep! All's going according to plan.
Director, it looks like clouds are moving in, and it's getting dark too!
Really?
Now, where shall we go?
A storm. .
...is moving in, all right!
Coast clear?
Yeah!
Jumping out!

He's still tailing us.
He never gives up.
We can't relax and film here!
Nope! Not at all.
What?!
We'll have to be decoys and get that jerk to follow us.
Then we have no choice.
...while we're doing that, Mink and her manager...
Keep going in this direction to get him off you...
...can sneak off to the filming location.

Mink Rap!!

Anyway, Megumi Tachibana loves dramas that make you cry. Crying at dramas can be a stress reliever! But when I'm crying, I don't forget about work. And no matter what the rankings are, my absolute favorite is Emi Wakui. That pout is so cute! The greatest thing about Emi is that her leading men are always fun to look at. That's probably because she herself is so charming. Also, I am weak for Tetsuya Takeda. They both can really get me crying! The surprising thing is that in "Arranged Marriage," I even cried at Yousuke Santa Maria's acting, even though I didn't expect to. (Is it rude to say that last part?) In addition, there are a lot of daytime dramas that bring me to tears, you know.

Continued on page 141

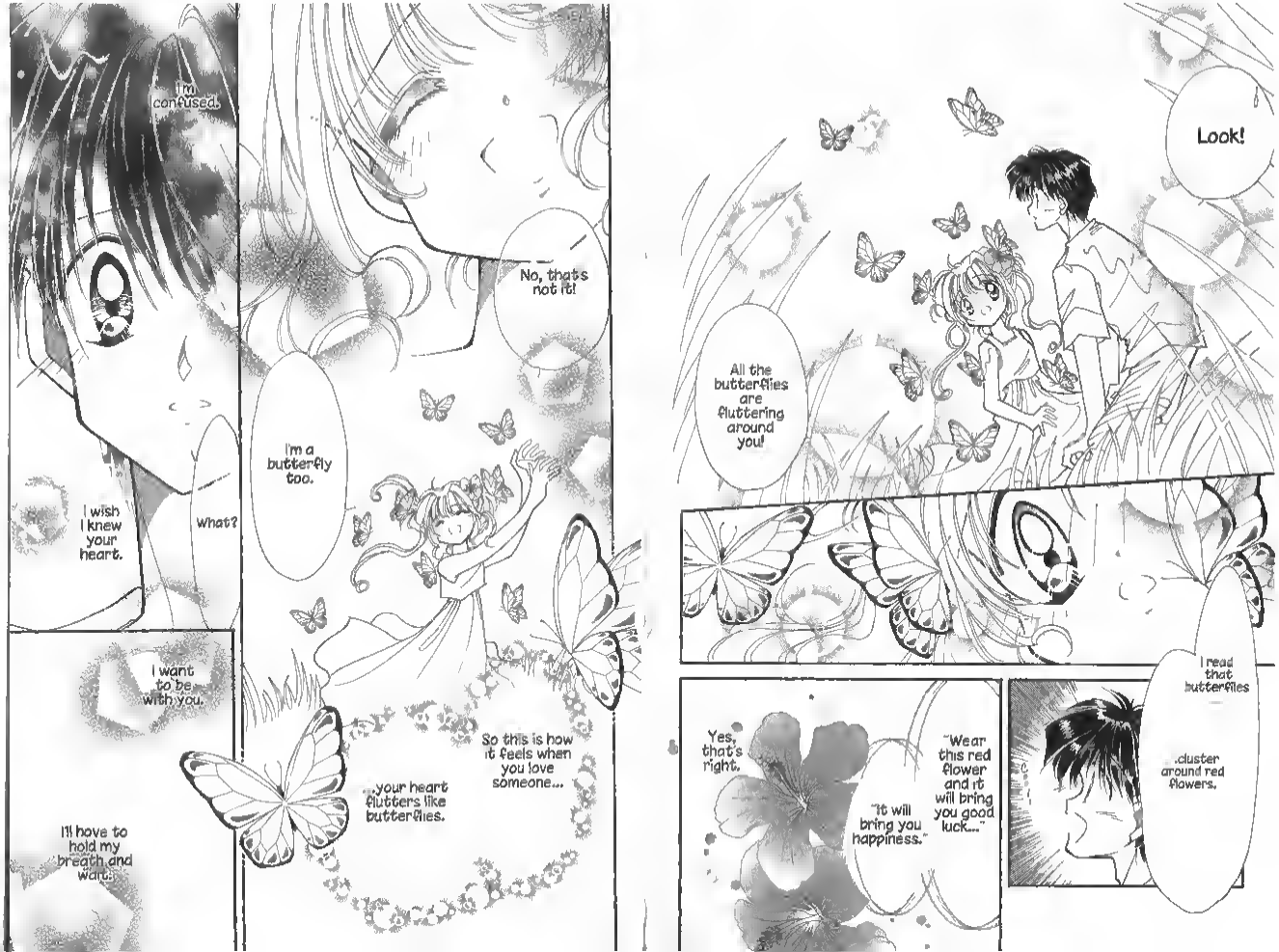


Ohh...
...sorry.

...and now I'm totally drenched!
...now the director's mad at me...
You made me become an actress in this cheesy drama! Then they changed the script, and added a love scene...
It's all your fault!
Hmmph.
Why?
Why?
Why?
This is all your fault!
Stop it! This is dangerous!
WHOA!
!

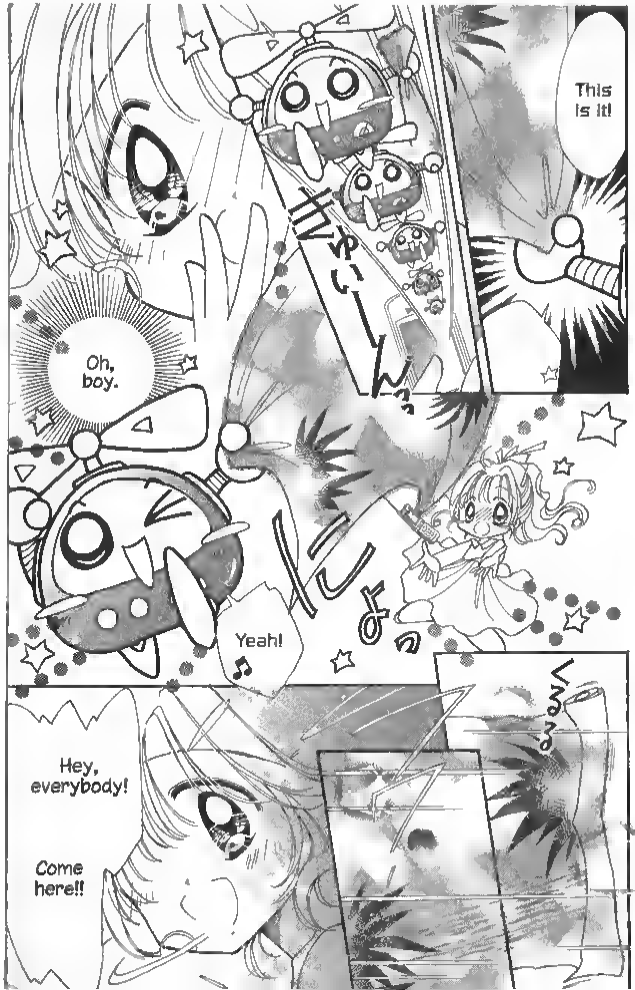
Huh?
A butterfly..
...kiss?

There is someone I like...
I just remembered something.
Senpai...
...in the kissing scene.
I just can't...
!

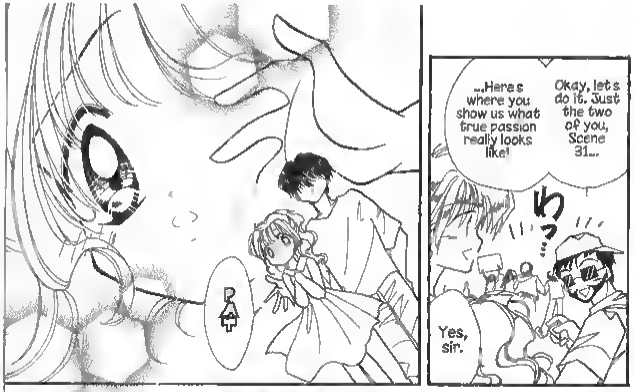

I'm confused.
I wish I knew your heart.
what?
I want to be with you.
I'll have to hold my breath and wait...
No, that's not it!
I'm a butterfly too.
...your heart flutters like butterflies.
So this is how it feels when you love someone...
Look!
All the butterflies are fluttering around you!
I read that butterflies
...cluster around red flowers.
"Wear this red flower and it will bring you good luck..."
"It will bring you happiness."
Yes, that's right.

The next day.
This is a problem...
...the beach is all messed up.
Oh no!
I came to check it out. The storm was especially bad...
...so we can't film here.
But Iliya has a separate shooting schedule tomorrow.
Let's use the search feature!
Okay, leave it to me
Isn't there anything you can do?
Om, Om, did you hear?
Eh?

Their wings are so delicate...
...and fragile.


This is it!
Oh, boy.
Yeah!
Hey, everybody!
Come here!!

If we can find it on the Internet I can get it for you.
What are you talking about?
I'll leave it up to Om!!
Come on "Network"!!
Beep
SEARCH
Search!!
BEEP
BEEP



...Here's where you show us what true passion really looks like!
Okay, let's do it. Just the two of you, Scene 31...
Yes, sir.

You can do it!
It'll be okay, I'll be here watching
Have you forgotten my killer technique?
Senpai?
Huh?
What?
"I..."
"...don't want to part."
You betcha!

Who cares?! Let's roll!!
But how come this is the only stretch of beach that didn't get hit?
Cool!
What an awesome spot!

Senpai...

"I want to be ..."
"...with you, Naoto."
Good, Mink.
You're like a completely different person today!
Did something happen?
"I want to know what's in your heart."
"I want to be with you."

It's fine. No problem with the angle.
Cut! Good!!
With ...?
My cheek?
Iliya?
You weren't ...
Beautiful, beautiful!
You two are going to get fabulous reviews, no doubt!
Were you...
...looking at me at all.
...thinking of someone else?

Hey, is he...?

You've made me want...
Huh?
...a real kiss from you!

What?
Ah, that was...
Hmph.
You should save your first kiss for real life.
But...
I think I'm getting serious.

Mink Rap!!

"Pekka Peka" made me cry every time I watched it! Gamon Kaoi was in "Reaching to Heaven" (he was still a middle-school acter then), and then there was also "Love's Gift" about a Labrador raised by a family to be a seeing-eye dog. I was bawling when they had to leave each other! It was very interesting to see how they train guide dogs. Needless to say, I have a major soft spot for animals! Another series I like is Professor Kinbara's "Boy of Glass." I've been really excited about that one lately. Professor Kinbara hasn't changed at all. He's still hot! I'm looking forward to the next one because they always make me cry. I liked Professor Kinbara way back when I really liked Satoshi Kishida in "First Year, B Unit, Professor Shinbara." Neee...neee! (These are little echoes, okay?) What?! Don't you know that scene? It's not on the air anymore since Professor Kinbara became very famous. I've been a fan of his ever since, so if the executives at Tokyo Broadcasting System are reading this, please bring it back again!! Yay...yay! (These are little echoes, okay?) These are my reasons for loving dramas! Everyone, tell me about the dramas you like!

We arrive at the airport at 10:50 in the morning and check in at 1 p.m.
At two o clock we move to the location set...are you listening, Mink?
What should we order from the in-flight menu?
♫Huh, Sanyo?

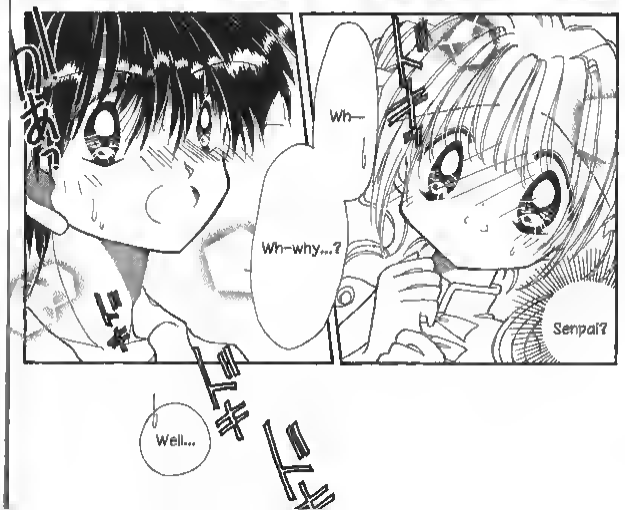
Special Story

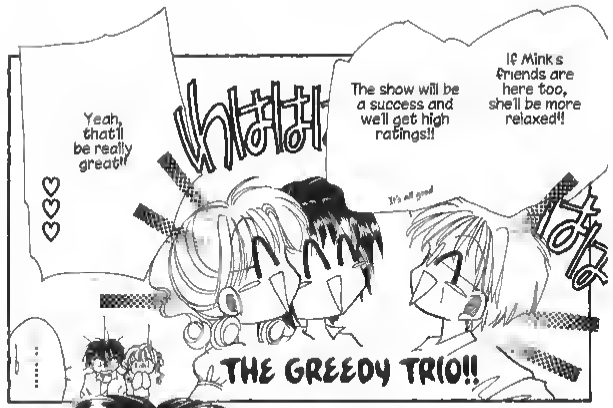
The Prince of The Far White Sands

Treasures, treasures!
Yeah
Yeah
If you're talking about ruins, that means treasures too.
Yes, I come to bring us.
I'm glad to hear our show is super popular.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
Besides, Mink is going to the Republic of Arawana for the super popular show, "The World's Exciting Discoveries!"
It's producer Nishi!
Excuse me, we'll be sending these freaks back soon.
No, no.
It's fine.
That's right, to file a report on the ruins there.

Whoa!
Me too.
Hello♡!
I like...
...chicken.
What are you guys doing here?
What about school? You should be home studying.
Mo, you are the last person we want to hear that from.
When did the two of you...?
We're on vacation! It's Spring break, y'know!
Ha

Looks like you're more than her manager!


Wh—
Wh-why...?
Senpai?
Well...


Yeah, that'll be really great!!
The show will be a success and we'll get high ratings!!
If Mink's friends are here too, she'll be more relaxed!!
It's all good
THE GREEDY TRIO!!

Oh no, you shouldn't say that.
Well, good work, Torium. If you're there, Mink will be all right.
I've heard all about you. You're more than a bodyguard!
The way you protect Mink from that gossip columnist, from fans, rescuing her from the fire!
Really, Mo? That's so brave of you!!

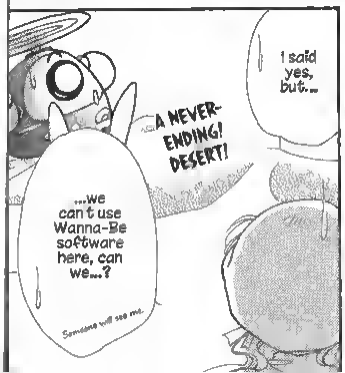
Ready to start the report.
On this archaeological site, there were many palaces that existed such as this one...
...however, even throughout this remarkable dynasty, there was tragedy.
The great Prince Ekirimu, heir of the King Arawana, fell in love with a common girl named Ishana.

That's right.
Well, yes. Of course.
♪
So, you're a manager?

It's because I'm her manager!! It's my job!!
What else?

I understand why he did it...
...but now it feels like there's a wall between us.
So many obstacles to happiness.
These are said to be the ruins of Branadas from 700 B.C.
The Arawana Dynasty originated from the modern Republic of Arawana.

What is King Arawana's most prized treasure?
Cut!! Good!
Let's start taping again in 10 minutes!
Now...
...time for a trivia question!


A NEVER-ENDING DESERT!
...we can't use Wanna-Be software here, can we...?
Someone will see me.
I said yes, but...

Yes, sir!
Mink, I'm going to find out the details of the next setup. While I'm doing that, please change into your next outfit!

To this day, it is said that the spirit of the prince...
...is still searching for the girl he loved.
Their forbidden love was torn apart by the Royal Family because of their difference in status...
...so Ishana became very ill from a broken heart and passed away.
Good, Mink.

Oh, my...
I've never seen anything like this before!!
I don't think you should go too far in, Mink.
Maybe there's a mummy or something.
I wonder what's down there...?!
AAAAGH!!
Ew!

Would it be okay over there?
Okay, um?
Mink?! What's she doing?
Wow!!

Mink Rap!!

These are the albums I listened to while working on this book.

"Recycle Greatest Hits of Spitz," by Spitz
"Thermo plasti," by Hitomi
"Innocence," by Anisa Mitsuqi
"The Very Best," by Celine Dion
"Sometime in the Cherry Blossom Rain," by Takako Matsu

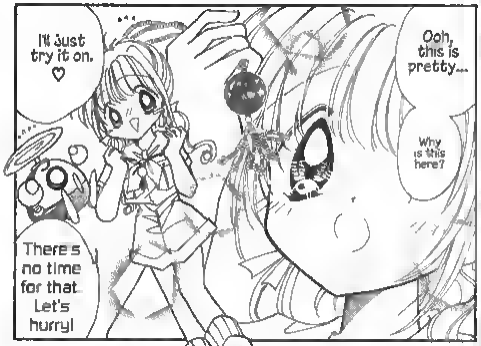
These are the singles "Liar," by Something Else "Somehow," by Takashi Fuji "Love, Day After Tomorrow," and "Stay by My Side," by Mai Kuraki

I've been so busy lately that I haven't been able to get out much to buy CDs... Do you think this list is short? The ones I really like are Mai Kuraki and Celine Dion, as well as Takako Matsu

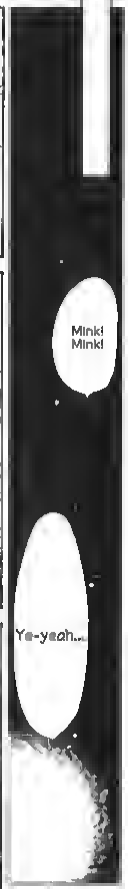
Wow!

Mink!

Where are we?
We have to find the exit quickly
Thank goodness Are you all right?


It Just try it on. ♡
Ooh, this is pretty...
Why is this here?
There's no time for that Let's hurry!

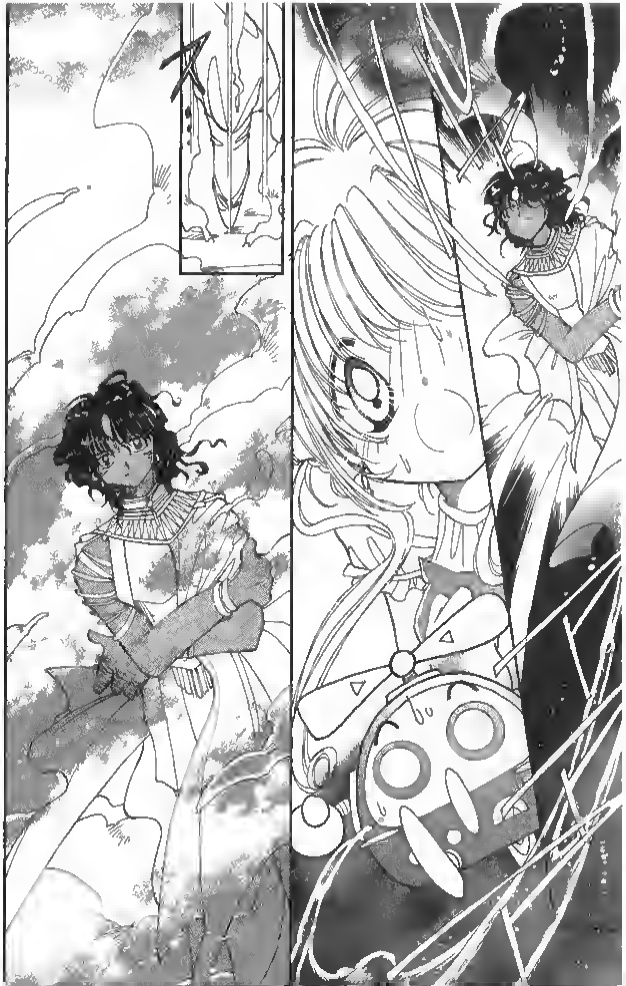
There's light up ahead! It might be an exit
.....!


Mink! Mink!
Ye-yeah...

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP!
That's it!
♬
mmm
mmm
mmm
Transform!!
DISC
HA

Come on Network!!
Absolutely nobody...
That's an amazing mural.
This is probably a hidden chamber
You're right!!
?
...can see us here!
COSTUME PARADE- ACTIVATE!!

That outfit is perfect, Mink!!
It's a traditional Arawanian dress.
I did want to try one on.
Okay we have to hurry back
What's that?
Oh my stars!
What?!
Hey!

I've finally found...
...my beautiful bride.
What?!


I wonder if he was revived by the Wanna-Be software?!
A ghost...
A ghost A ghost A ghost A ghost A ghost A ghost A ghost A ghost
No!
Look closely, you'll see that I'm not Ishana!!
Let's go, Ishana...
...This time we will get married.
Get your hands off her!!

Have you forgotten your Ekinmu?
My beloved Ishana!
I do not know
Wh-who...
...are you?!
Ekinmu...
How could that be?
Oh.
Then, I bet...
...you're Prince Ekinmu of the Kingdom of Arawan!

Let's go, Mink!
It's not what you think...
...that's the ghost of Prince Ekinmu.
Huh?
ボロッ...
Oh no!
Senpai!

Senpai!
Don't you dare touch her!
I don't know what kind of tour guide you think you are...
...but you're not going to just do what you want with Mink!
Man in control
Oh!

Ssh
Listen to me!
What are you saying? That necklace is proof!
That's the one I gave you.
How can I make you understand?!
If I was afraid of ghosts...
...
...I wouldn't have become a talent manager!!
おっかあさ〜ん!!

I won't let anyone come between me and Ishana.
It's a wall of rocks.
GRASH!
Aaagh!
This time I'm not letting her go!
SWOOSH!
No, let go of me!!

!!
Senpai?!
Senpai...!!
Take that!
Why are you doing this horrible thing?!
Why is he trying to tear me away from you?!

Mink!!
Senpai...!!
...bring you back!!
I will...

We need to do something!
The prince needs our help...
...to get Ishana back!
Beep Beep
We must...
...bring the two of them together again!
Come on Network!!
Beep Beep Beep
"Analyze!!

They kept us apart!
At that time, they said we were from two different worlds..
I can't face that again!!
"An invisible wall...
Because I'm her manager.
Senpai..
4th Hat!
Mink!
What should we do?!

Ish_.Lapis Azuli
Century 700_.Arawana
Owner_.Female
Case history_.Name_
ANALYZ
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Come on, Ishana!
Beep
Beep!
Ishana!
Analysis complete
Beep
Recovery!!!
RECOVERY
Beep
Beep
Revive!!

Mink Rap!!

Special thanks

Miyuki Obazaki

Miwa Ishioka

Harumi Azima

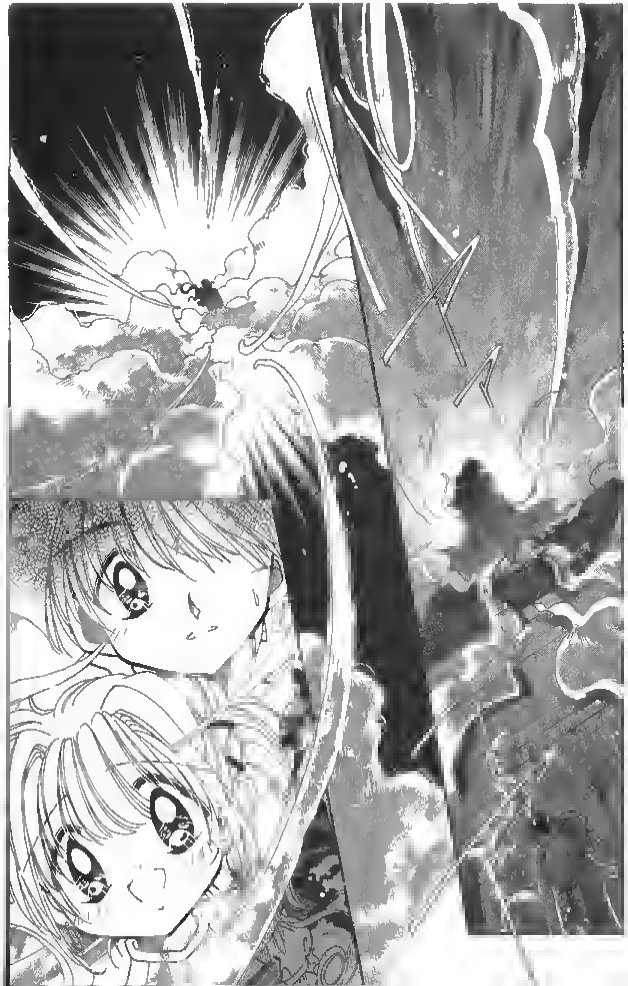
I'd like to thank Sakura Kawai of Mie Prefecture for designing Mink's costumes in Chapter 7. I also like to thank Yuuko Kujira of Kanagawa Prefecture for the Arawana ethnic clothes. Thank you both for letting me use your designs.

The designs were sent to me through the Nakayoshi Readers' Contest, "Call Out Costumes for Mink."

I will continue using the costume designs from the contest entries, so if you've submitted something, keep checking in to see if we're using it!

To everyone: thank you and let's meet again in Volume 3!

Here... I'll return this to you.
Seeing the two of you reunited is enough.
Thank you, maiden. How can I ever repay you?
My precious necklace!



Try lifting the carvings off the floor.
What?
It's something...
...we won't be needing anymore.
We are so grateful to you!

The treasures from the Kingdom of Arawana!
Huh?
Senpai, look!
Oh!
We came looking for you.
Yeah?
Yeah?
Mm-hm!
Producer Nishi! Everybody!

But...
Even if we take these carvings from the floor...
...they're too heavy for souvenirs and they're not very cute!
What was that sound?
Whoa! The floor is moving!!
Awww...
They're gone.
Just like magic!

Sweet smell of success!
...I made it after all!
Woo-Hoo!
???
STV NEWS
A HISTORIC DISCOVERY!!!! AN EXCLUSIVE SCOOP!!!
This is a major historic discovery!
Breaking news!
Pop star Cyber Idol Mink has discovered hidden treasures in ancient ruins while she was reporting for a TV program!!

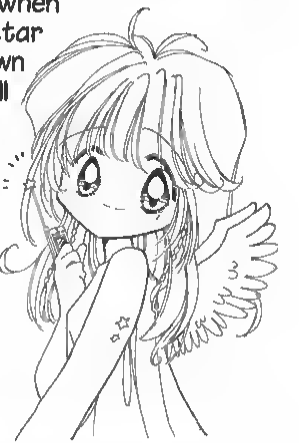
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

What?
An invisible wall...
If every of you pocket these, I'll bet you!
Awwwwww, Awwwwww!
Aaagh!
We found it! I'll get the president's prize!! And make no mistake about it, our ratings are going ta soar!!
Super!! That's super, Mink!!
Really?
I guess...

COMING SOON!

電脳少女☆ Mink

Mink might have some serious competition when Motoharu takes on another aspiring pop star, Yuka. When Motoharu starts paying a lot of attention to her, what will happen to Mink's burgeoning career? Things get shaky between them when word gets out that superstar Illiya is about to start his own record label and Mink will have to make some major decisions. Find out in Volume 3 if Mink will stay with Motoharu's company or start a new career with her heartthrob Illiya! Don't miss out on the cyber adventures of Mink and the gang!



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Cyber Idol Mink has got her work cut out for her! With her popularity soaring and her single climbing up the charts, Mink lands some major deals. But when her archenemy and fellow pop star Azumi rages with jealousy, she's out to steal Mink's spotlight and sabotage her first major gig. To make matters worse, the "Celebrity Killer" is looking for a scoop, and he's out to expose the real Mink!

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